

Capital Springs Centennial State Park and Recreation Area Master Plan

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Capital Springs Centennial State Park and Recreation Area Master Plan. We hope that you will be involved in the master plan process and enjoy receiving periodic updates. Each newsletter will be filled with the latest developments, important dates, and articles about the State Park and Recreation Area to familiarize you with the natural, recreational, cultural and historic opportunities available here. The Master Plan process for this unique park is just beginning and we welcome you aboard!

A Unique Approach



Dane County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are undertaking a unique approach to recreation and resource management by joining forces to jointly manage and develop a master plan for the Capital Springs Centennial State Park and Recreation Area. This type of cooperation has never before been tried in Wisconsin or perhaps the nation.

Lake Farm County Park will merge with 326 farmland acres on the south side of Libby Road to create a State Park with about one mile of shoreline on Lake Waubesa.

The Recreation Area includes the E-Way and Capital City Trail from Fish Hatchery Road to Lake Farm Park (please see map on page 3). The Recreation Area is owned by multiple jurisdictions and each entity will retain ownership. Dane County and the DNR hope that a coherent management strategy can be developed for this entire area.

Meet Brad Bates

Capital Springs Centennial State Park Manager. Brad



comes to Madison from Bong Recreation Area near Kenosha and he recently completed the State Park Manager Training Program. Both Dane County Parks and WDNR fund the position. Brad and his wife Anna live near Portage. Please welcome Brad to Capital Springs and feel free to ask him any questions about the park. Brad's office is in the Lussier Family Heritage Center and his number is 608-224-3606 or Brad.Bates@dnr.state.wi.us.

Public Involvement

Public participation opportunities are a vital part of developing a Master Plan and a requirement for DNR planning. Michele Chalice, DNR Senior Planner, developed the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for this project.

Tom Jennings and Margaret Burlingham of Jennings and Associates Landscape Architecture will be facilitating the public meetings, sending out meeting announcements and newsletters, and gathering your comments. Those attending the meetings will not have to endure long lectures; instead we plan to make all the public meetings fun and interactive. In the past we have held brainstorming sessions, outdoor open houses and guided nature tours, created project scrapbooks, and asked participants to draw park designs.

We want to know your comments and ideas. A comment form is included in the newsletter on page 2. You may also ask to be on the mailing list with this form. Please feel free to e-mail us at jennings@execpc.com. Other contact numbers are on the back page. See you at the next meeting!

Planning Process

Planning for the Capital Springs Centennial State Park and Recreation Area involves several phases:

Phase One – Site Inventory, Issue Identification, and Suitability Analysis. **We are currently in this phase and it is expected to last through January 2003.**

Phase Two – Develop Project Vision and Goals – February 2003-April 2003. The public will be asked to comment on the draft vision and goals.

Phase Three – Develop Property Master Plan Alternatives – May 2003 – December 2003. You will be able to view the draft alternative park plans and comment on them

Phase Four – the WDNR writes the master plan document and complete the environmental impact statement during 2004. The public will be able to comment on the master plan document.

Phase Five – The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board reviews and gives approvals in 2004.

Lots of great ideas were suggested such as primitive bike-in, hike-in, and boat-in camping; prairie, woodland, and savanna restoration; bike trails connecting adjacent neighborhoods through the state park to the E-Way and downtown Madison, rentable outdoor activity areas, designated dog park areas, and regional plans with connections to recreation, historic sites, and natural areas. Concerns included traffic, worries about what kind of private development a heavily used park could bring, and security issues.

A Little History



Lake Farm County Park was the tribal home of several groups of Native Americans for over 12,000 years. The American Heritage Trail at the park is an interpretive trail through the Lake Farms Archaeological District. This location, between several major water resources, probably explains the high density of archaeological sites found here. Old timers can remember teepees in the area of the Beltline north of the park. In the late 1700's fur trappers passed through the area. In the 1830's, after the Blackhawk War, early pioneers settled here and much of Lake Farm Park was farmed until Dane County bought land in 1976.



One of the springs

Nine Springs Creek is named after the 20 or more natural springs that feed it. Groundwater from a large area flows beneath the wetlands and discharges above ground as springs. Rare fen-type wetlands are found west of Syenne Road where groundwater moving down from the surrounding uplands is forced up through peat soils that contain high levels of dissolved calcium and magnesium carbonates. This naturally alkaline environment (high pH) supports unique and rare fen plant communities.

The Nevin Fish Hatchery is the oldest of all DNR managed lands, acquired in 1876. Over half a million rainbow, brown, and brook trout are raised here annually. The 320-acre property has a variety of plant communities, 14 springs, picnic areas, and is on the Capital City Trail. Hatchery tours are available. Nevin is also the home of the DNR South Central Region Headquarters where information on trails, camping, permits, and all DNR activities can be found. The Forest Pest Lab is located here as well.

Comments:



WEB PAGE www.dnr.state.wi.us/master_plannning and look for Capital Springs Centennial State Park

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